

NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES  
NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL  
OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

SPACE SCIENCE BOARD

March 11, 1960

*W. Lederberg*

Academician A. Blagovestov  
Vice-President of COSPAR  
Academy of Sciences of the U.S.S.R.  
Moscow, U.S.S.R.

Dear Colleague:

I call to your attention again the desirability of arranging some sort of meeting to discuss methods of biological sterilization of space vehicles. We propose that this meeting should be sponsored by COSPAR, and that its purpose should be to exchange information and opinions on the following topics:

- (1) Level of sterilization required.
- (2) Effectiveness of various methods.
- (3) How to overcome practical problems in application of various methods.

In our opinion this meeting should be informal in character, and there should be no need to vote on resolutions or specific recommendations of any kind.

Dr. Joshua Lederberg and several other scientists from the United States would be willing to attend such a meeting, and we hope that someone like Dr. Jerusalemiskii and some of his colleagues might come from the U.S.S.R. We should be happy to have a small number of biological scientists from other countries present also, but would be willing to accept your desires in that matter. Either Dr. Lederberg or the principal Soviet scientist, whichever you wish, might serve as convener.

Dr. Lederberg plans to attend a Symposium on Bacterial Genetics of the Society of General Microbiology in London on 12-15 April. He suggests the following Monday and Tuesday, 18-19 April, in London as a convenient time and place for the meeting, especially if appropriate scientists from the U.S.S.R. should be planning to attend this same meeting.

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Please let me know as soon as you can whether a meeting along these lines is possible, and if so whether the above time and place would be satisfactory, and what the U.S.S.R. would propose regarding attendance and topics to be discussed.

Very truly yours,

Dr. Richard W. Porter  
Space Science Board

BNP:eft

bcc: Dr. J. Laderberg  
Dr. H. Odishaw  
Mr. R. C. Peavey  
Mr. A. W. Frutkin